

Public Comment

A draft electronic copy of this draft APSR was provided to the PIP Advisory Committee on May 9, 2007 and a paper copy made available on May 16, 2007. Comments from the advisory committee have been integrated into the report. The APSR was posted on the department and division websites on May 16, 2007 and available for a 30-day public comment period. Only three feedback forms were received. They are indicated below as follow:

Feedback 1

What is the status of children in foster care? Two organizations in north St. Louis, Faith House and ECHO are no longer providing residential treatment services? Annie Malone has a very small population of children in residential care? Where are these children going who must be removed from their homes? How many minority children are in foster care? How many from the City? How many in the County? Are agencies expected to provide care without resources from the State when children are in your custody? Who can I talk to about the situation of children in need of various services within the State?

It was deemed more appropriate to forward these direct questions to Constituent Services for response. Constituent Services staff responded to her questions on a timely basis.

Feedback 2

Recommend that meeting the educational needs of children in out of home care be addressed in the report. On page 30, under Crisis Care---it might be appropriate to mention Crisis nursery and teen care as the two programs. On page 95, the role of the PBC's and the specialized contact in recruiting foster parents might be noted. Meeting the educational needs of children is addressed under Educational Services and the Chafee section. Under Crisis Care on page 40 it indicates the crisis care program served two distinct populations; children (ages birth-12) and youth (ages 13-17). This has resulted in the development of two separate contracts for SFY'08. The use of PBC and the Specialized Care Management contracts in recruiting foster parents has been added to page 95.

Feedback 3

- CA/N reports/hotlines from CRU are too complicated in the format now being used...info gets to be hard to find.
- Subsidized guardianships need to have criteria expanded so other relatives/kinship can qualify for paid attorney and financial support...in the long run this is much more economical than foster care coupled with CD and Juvenile Court continued involvement.
- Too much emphasis is placed on advanced degrees in promotion to supervisory and management positions..."book smart" is not always better than "common sense" & experience.

- Too much promotion from "within" CD is suffocating new ideas...compare this in the CD organization to genetic problems with incestuous families.
- CACs are great!!!
- School based social worker program should be enlarged. These social workers are able to identify and work with families with problem issues before they become real problems of CA/N because of early identification.
- Investigations of hotlines are many times "farmed out" to other agencies too quickly before the underlying problems of possible neglect are investigated/assessed.

While all comments are appreciated, these are relatively subjective and do not require revisions to the APSR.